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Heike Omerzu

Apphia

In the salutation of the letter to Philemon Apphia is greeted by Paul (Phlm 2). The use of the apposition "sister" (ἀδελφή) with the definite article designates the woman as Christian. There is a lot of speculation as to why Apphia is saluted by name and why her name follows immediately behind Philemon's and precedes Archippus', whereas the main message in the corpus of the letter concerns Philemon alone: Does this indicate a familial relationship, and is Apphia the wife or the daughter of Philemon? As the lady of the house she would be involved in all household matters including the fate of the slave Onesimus, "but the point of mentioning her in the greeting is one of courtesy" (O'Brien: 273). Or does the only woman, who is addressed by name in the prescript of a biblical letter, hold a leading position in Philemon's house church? In that case the apostle would make Philemon render account to his Christian brothers and sisters, among whom Apphia and Archippus are outstanding persons (Leuttsch; Bieberstein).

The name Apphia is well attested in inscriptions from Asia Minor (Arzt-Grabner: 82–83), a fact which, in combination with the letter to the Colossians, supports the theory that Philemon's house church was located in this area, perhaps in Phrygia or, more specifically, in the town of Colossae.

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Eva Ebel

Apphus

→ Jonathan: Apphus (Maccabeus)

Appian Way

The Appian Way, or *via Appia*, was the Romans' principle route to south Italy and beyond (Strabo, *Geogr.* 6.283). Construction of its first leg from Rome to Capua was begun by the censor Appius Claudius Caesus in 312 BCE (Livy, *History of Rome* 9.29) in the midst of the Roman expansion in Italy. This was the first long-distance roadway constructed by Rome, and if fact, the first public works project beyond the vicinity of Rome. The road is named after Appius. It was extend beyond Capua all the way to Berium and Brundisium on the eastern coast of the Italian peninsula, thus giving Rome ready land access both to the Tyrrhenian Sea and to the Sea of Adria. The construction of this and other major roads by the Romans facilitated efficient delivery and reception of goods through direct supply lines and made travel across the Italian peninsula much easier than in times previous to road construction. The road system played a key role in Roman expansion throughout the Italian peninsula and beyond.



In particular, the *via Appia* facilitated the foundation of colonies at sites such as Tarracina and Minturnae. The road system in general, with the *via Appia* as a key member, provided a link between citizens living in these and other colonies at a distance from the city of Rome, which in turn allowed extension of Roman citizenship to places at a distance from the capital.

The *via Appia* was the subject of centuries of maintenance, repair and renewal after its construction. Although not paved when it was first constructed, eventually paving was funded through fines levied on violators of the *lex Licinia*. All roads, including the *via Appia*, were measured with inscribed markers up to 3 meters in height every mile. The inscriptions contain information about distances and who had built or restored the road. By the late 1st century BCE, a system for maintaining the roads was clearly in place, with a curator in charge of the major routes (Cicero, *Att.* i.1.2). According to Plutarch, Julius Caesar shored up his political position by spending a large amount of his own money as curator of the *via Appia* (Plutarch, *Caes.* 5).